

# Incident Name: COVID-19 Jefferson County

Jefferson County Emergency Operations Center

## March 30, 2020 Update

### Incident Summary

- National Emergency declared 3/14/2020
- State Emergency declared 3/13/2020
- The Montana Governor has issued restrictions on certain business operations through April 10<sup>th</sup>.
- County Emergency declared 3/19/2020
- Town of Whitehall Emergency declared 3/19/2020.
- City of Boulder Emergency declared 3/26/2020.
- County Emergency Operations Center and Emergency Operations Plan activated by the Jefferson County office of Disaster and Emergency Services on 3/16/2020.
- County incident being managed under the Unified Command of Joan VanDuynhoven, Public Health Officer, and Doug Dodge, Disaster and Emergency Services Coordinator.
- County level daily operational coordination briefings are occurring, in addition to weekly planning meetings. The County Commission has a standing agenda item regarding COVID-19 on their weekly agenda.

### Incident Update (new items in bold)

1. **The Jefferson County Criminal Justice Center front doors are now locked. People requiring access need to call ahead to 225-4075 for further instructions.**
2. **The Jefferson County Jail is no longer allowing any visitation.**
3. **The Jefferson County Fire Council, in coordination with the Jefferson County Fire Warden, has decided to close debris burning effective at 11:59pm on 3/30/2020. Fires under 48" in size (such as campfires) are NOT impacted by this closure. The closure will be in effect through at least 4/10/2020. Debris burning is one of the leading causes of fire response calls in the spring. By closing debris burning, the Council hopes to reduce the occurrence of close contact among our volunteers which is required during response operations. Additionally, debris burning activities such as saw work can lead to injuries that require medical resources that are already thinly stretched.**
4. Jefferson County has two confirmed positive COVID-19 cases.
5. Jefferson County Public Health nurses continue to monitor self-reporting international travelers.
6. The Jefferson County Commission has passed a resolution restricting public access to County offices and buildings. Those with County business need to call before visiting County offices for further direction from the department they would like to visit. Office phone numbers are available online at [www.jeffersoncounty-mt.gov](http://www.jeffersoncounty-mt.gov)

[mt.gov](https://mt.gov). It should be noted that physical protective measures are being taken to protect employees and the public at county facilities. These measures could impact certain functions of county departments and may lead to delays in requested services. The best way to avoid these delays is to utilize the electronic capabilities from each department.

7. The County Commission has established an online/call in platform for citizens to participate in County meetings remotely. At the designated meeting time, those wishing to participate can watch online by visiting <https://zoom.us/join> and entering the meeting ID 671-828-8589. Citizens can also access the meeting on their phones by calling 1-312-626-6799 and entering the meeting ID 671-828-8589. Finally, citizens can also download the Zoom app for their smartphones at:  
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=us.zoom.videomeetings> (android users) or <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/zoom-cloud-meetings/id546505307> (apple users).

## Incident Closures/Restrictions

- All county schools (by order of the Governor) through 4/10/2020.  
Certain businesses such as restaurants and bars (by order of the Governor) through 4/10/2020.
- Debris burning is closed effective 3/30/2020 at 11:59 pm.
- Jefferson County is restricting access to county facilities, please call ahead prior to visiting.
- Clancy, Boulder and Whitehall libraries – limited access, call for information.
- Most in-person meetings should be postponed until further notice – check with the agency sponsoring the meeting for updates.

## Incident Contacts

**COVID-19 hotline: 1-888-333-0461**

COVID-19 website: <https://covid19.mt.gov/>

COVID-19 email: [covid19info@mt.gov](mailto:covid19info@mt.gov)

Jefferson County Public Health: 406-225-4007

Jefferson County Disaster and Emergency Services: 406-225-4035